

SECRET [REDACTED]

ER 78-3651

25X1

## THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

22 November 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Director, National Foreign Assessment Center *rub*FROM : Robert C. Ames  
National Intelligence Officer for the  
Near East and South Asia[REDACTED]  
Acting National Intelligence Officer for Warning

SUBJECT : Proposed Alert Memorandum on Iran

1. Action Requested: DCI approval for production of an Alert Memorandum on Iran.2. Background: The Shia Muslim holy month of Muharram is likely to bring an especially severe challenge to the military government in Iran. I believe it would be useful to our consumers to underscore with a Community publication:

- a. The critical nature of the period around 11 December.
- b. The key factors that will determine the direction events will go.
- c. The likely near-term political ramifications if the Shah survives or does not survive.

3. I propose that this memorandum be drafted by NFAC's Iran Analytical Center. A suggested outline is attached (Tab A). This paper could be coordinated by the Community and issued on 30 November.

4. Recommendation: That DCI approve production of an alert Memorandum on Iran.

25X1

[REDACTED]  
*For*  
SECRET [REDACTED]

25X1

DISTRIBUTION:

Orig - DCI  
1 - DDCI  
1 - ER  
1 - D/NFAC  
1 - Acting NIO/Warning  
1 - NIO/NESA  
1 - NFAC Registry

*DCI approved 11/27/78.*

SECRET

25

21 November 1978

Proposed Outline of Alert Memorandum on Iran

INTRODUCTION

Moharram -- especially severe challenge by 11 December

Will be test of:

- Ability and determination of opposition
- Ability of military to keep order
- Morale and loyalty of military
- Shah's leadership

DISCUSSION

Factors Determining Outcome

Strength of Opposition Challenge

- Khomeini
- National Front
- Radical opposition, including Tudeh
- Disorganized opposition

Effort to Maintain Security

- Military/security capabilities
- Military loyalty

SECRET

25

SECRET

25X1

Lack of Political Options

- Tried appeasement, co-optation
- Resorted to martial law, military government
- Dual strategy seen as weakness

Shah's leadership

- Inconstancy of mood and policy
- Possibility of more assertive leadership
- Possibility of abdication

Near-term Political Ramifications

If Shah Perseveres

- Extended military government
- Restored civilian government

If Shah Does Not Survive

- Military takeover
- Other outcomes

Likely Soviet Behavior

- 2 -

SECRET

25X1